

These are the errors that appear year after year in examiner reports. Knowing *what not to write* is just as important as knowing what to write. ★ marks Higher Tier only. Every mistake here has cost students marks in real exams.

Cell Division and the Nervous System

■ **Students often write:** *"Mitosis produces genetically different cells for sexual reproduction."*

✓ **Correct answer:** MEIOSIS produces genetically different haploid cells for sexual reproduction. MITOSIS produces genetically identical diploid cells for growth and repair.

■ **Examiner insight:** Mitosis = growth/repair = identical. Meiosis = reproduction = different. Edexcel Topic 2 questions on mitosis/meiosis require precise terminology.

■ **Students often write:** *"The brain is responsible for all nervous responses."*

✓ **Correct answer:** Reflex responses bypass the brain — they use only the spinal cord (relay neurone). The brain coordinates voluntary actions. For Edexcel, you must name the THREE regions of the brain and their specific functions.

■ **Examiner insight:** Cerebral cortex (thought), cerebellum (coordination), medulla (automatic functions). Each region has a specific function — know all three.